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Concern over curb shows Carter wants to act in Angola, Clark says

Washington Bureau of The Sun

Washington—Senator Dick Clark (D., Iowa) author of one of the key foreign policy restraints worrying the administration, said yesterday President Carter's concern over restrictions on covert action in Angola made it "self-evident" that Mr. Carter wanted "to do something in Angola."

Mr. Clark confirmed that he had been visited by two top national security officials earlier this month as the administration sought ways to counter expanding Soviet and Cuban influence in Africa.

Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and David Aaron, deputy director of the National Security Council, were reported to have sought Mr. Clark's reaction to the idea of covertly supplying aid to anti-Cuban forces in Angola.

At the White House, Jody Powell, the President's press secretary, yesterday refused to detail the exchange with Mr. Clark, but said the senator was the obvious authority to check with on the application of the amendment that Mr. Clark had sponsored.

Mr. Clark's amendment to the 1976 International Security Arms Export Control Act prohibits any U.S. support, direct or indirect, for military or paramilitary action in Angola without specific congressional authority. It was from bases in Angola that the Cuban-trained Katangans last week invaded Zaire.

Mr. Clark also declined to discuss his conversation with Admiral Turner and Mr. Aaron. But, he said that concern over his amendment made it "evident that the administration wanted to take some action in Angola."

"I can only conclude that it is self-evi-

dent if the President continues to refer over and over again to this being an impediment that they did intend to do something in Angola.

"I think it would be a great mistake for us to get involved in that kind of civil war. You can't get in just a little bit," said Senator Clark, who added he had detected no evidence that his Senate colleagues wanted to repeal his "tightly written" amendment.

He said Mr. Carter faced "understandable frustration" with Soviet and Cuban involvement in Africa and added: "Under the circumstances, it's easy to look other places and say, 'I am bound by this and I am bound by that and therefore my hands are tied.'"

He said that if Mr. Carter wanted his amendment changed, "he ought to say so. Otherwise, he ought to stop talking about this impediment."

But at the White House, Mr. Powell indicated there was no rush and said no decisions had yet been made on any specific legislative proposals.

Mr. Carter's concern "is not over any specific actions he wants to take next week, or next month or tomorrow night," Mr. Powell said.

Rather, he said, it was over "to what extent it is constructive for other nations to be informed by act of Congress that certain acts in American foreign policy are foreclosed."

At the State Department, Tom Reston, the department spokesman, did little to end the confusion over what precisely lay behind the initial complaints of the President about an inability to offer speedy assistance to friends in trouble.

Mr. Reston said "consultations" were under way with Congress on the restrain-

ing legislation, but added: "It is inaccurate to interpret these consultations as suggesting that the President has decided that a change should be made in our policy. This is the case with Angola as it is for other areas of United States policy."

Mr. Reston added: "No implication should be drawn from this request [to Congress for a review of legislation] that he is at this time seeking to change any specific piece of legislation."

"What we are engaged in is not an academic exercise. We are reviewing a variety of legislation which restricts the President's ability to execute foreign policy."

As part of that foreign policy, the U.S. yesterday announced a \$55,000 contribution to the International Red Cross to help destitute refugees from the war in the Shaba province of Zaire.

Announcing the aid, Mr. Reston said that Kolwezi, the copper-mining town captured from the Katangans by Belgian and French paratroopers, is now "a dead city, without water, electricity or food."

Dealing with another aspect of the war, the State Department spokesman cast doubt on reports that the Russians had used prior knowledge of the Katangan attack to buy up supplies of cobalt, expecting the Zairean mines to be shut down.